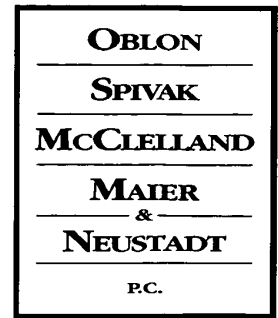


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0557-4956-3

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 09/544,289  
Applicants: Takayuki HIYOSHI  
Filing Date: April 6, 2000  
For: OPTICAL WRITE APPARATUS  
Group Art Unit: 2861  
Examiner: PHAM, H.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**RESTRICTION RESPONSE**

Our check in the amount of **-\$0.00-** is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

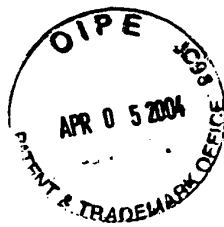
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Philip J. Hoffmann  
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0557-4956-3



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
TAKAYUKI HIYOSHI : EXAMINER: PHAM, H.  
SERIAL NO: 09/544,289 :  
FILED: APRIL 6, 2000 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2861  
FOR: OPTICAL WRITE APPARATUS :

RESTRICTION RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated March 5, 2004, Applicants elect with traverse the invention of group I, Claims 1-24, 38, 40, and 41, drawn to an optical write head assembly.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement for the following reason.

MPEP § 803 states:

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Application No. 09/544,289  
Reply to Office Action of March 5, 2004

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single invention be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-43 be conducted.

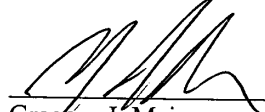
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Respectfully submitted,

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GJM/PH/me

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